



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CABLE EMPLOYEE PLEADS GUILTY TO STEALING EQUIPMENT
FROM WAREHOUSE AND SELLING IT ON EBAY**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that Christopher Joe Holguin, 33, of Odessa pleaded guilty this morning in federal court in Midland to stealing more than \$200,000 worth of DVRs, modems, HDMI cables and other equipment from the warehouse of his employer, Grande Communications, and selling them on eBay for personal enrichment.

Appearing before United States Magistrate Judge L. Stuart Platt in Midland, Holguin pleaded guilty to an Information alleging a violation of the federal wire fraud statute. As part of his plea, Holguin admitted that from approximately November 2005 through September 2008, Holguin worked as a warehouse coordinator for Grande Communications in Odessa. Among his duties was managing the company's inventory of DVR's, cable modems, HDMI cables, and other products it used in its business of providing cable television, Internet, and telephone services to business and residential customers.

Holguin acknowledged stealing hundreds of such items from the warehouse and selling them on the eBay website over a nearly three-year period. EBay records reflect that Holguin sold approximately \$270,000 worth of merchandise on the website during this time. Investigators believe the vast majority of what Holguin sold was stolen from his employer.

When he is sentenced in April, Holguin faces up to 20 years in federal prison, a maximum \$250,000.00 fine, and will be ordered to make full restitution to Grande.

The case was investigated by the Odessa Police Department, with full cooperation and assistance from eBay. Assistant United States Attorney John S. Klassen is prosecuting the matter for the Government.

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